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their turn the influence that here inflated their hopes; and their own students, now turned teachers too, have sent the echos of the Emersonian days flying—an endless course, like the pursuit of the truth. The footprints in the Connecticut River sandstones were to Longfellow the theme of the Psalm of Life; to Hitchcock they were more than footprints on the sands of time; he saw in the varying depth of these impressions, made heavier on one side than on another as the creature changed its course or turned a corner, the play of a different muscle and the nerve message from the brain which compelled the muscular motion. There he found, registered in the immortal rocks the very purpose and impulse of life. And thus too, the great teacher. While about these tables, there are some who owe Professor Emerson a direct allegiance, probably there are none who have not been reached by the ever widening rings of his influence or been guided by his imprints on the science. We are here tonight to heap upon him our pledges and congratulations, to establish thus a milestone to mark here the passage of the years. Every rock in the fields of Old Hampshire County claps its hands and the mountains of the Commonwealth break forth into singing, for they are his by a peculiar right and by an emphasis of interest. To him who has sounded their depths and touched their heights, whose eyes have looked in upon the record written in their hearts, whose inspired hammer has loosened their tongues that their tales may be a part of human knowledge and their secrets turned to the advantage of the state—it is to him we make our pledge of admiration and regard. When Edward Hitchcock retired from the presidency of Amherst College, the trustees not knowing, perhaps, how else to express their substantial regard, presented him with silver plate. So too we, in best of heart and with keener sense of our act, ask you to believe this gift which comes from all of us, is but the miniature symbol of the measure of our regard.

JOHN M. CLARKE

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### DR. WHITE'S GIFT TO MORGANTOWN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA

DR. I. C. WHITE, since 1897 state geologist of West Virginia, distinguished for his contributions to the geology of coal and petroleum, and Mrs. White have given to the University of West Virginia and the city of Morgantown 1,911 acres of Sewickley coal, situated on Helen's Run, in Marion County. Officers of the geological survey estimate that the tonnage of the acreage will approximate 15,000,000 and on a conservative royalty basis should yield at least \$4,000,000 over a period of years, \$2,000,000 to the city and \$2,000,000 to the university.

Dr. F. B. Trotter, president of the university, and City Manager Sutherland have issued the following statement:

The funds arising from the sale or lease belonging to the West Virginia University are to be used as follows:

The income from the proceeds of said coal is to be used in assisting the State of West Virginia to equip and maintain a geological department of the State University at Morgantown, West Virginia, after the state shall have constructed an adequate fire-proof building, including museum space for minerals, fossils, working laboratories, lecture rooms, etc., the only restriction upon the expenditure of the income being that it shall be devoted solely to the use and benefit of the geological department of the State University in the city of Morgantown, W. Va.

The income from the moiety belonging to the city of Morgantown is to be used in equal proportions under the following two heads, viz.:

First: For assisting the city of Morgantown in the purchase, improvement and maintenance of a public park in or near said city, for the pleasure and enjoyment of all its people.

Second: For assisting the city of Morgantown in securing, equipping and maintaining a public hospital of ample size and facilities in which the citizens of Morgantown, West Virginia, and especially all those of limited financial resources, can secure proper medical and surgical attention at a minimum cost, and in case of the very poor, free of all cost for such medical, surgical and hospital care as is necessary for their restoration to health.

Dr. White's letter to the officers of the university reads:

It gives Mrs. White and myself much pleasure to be able to transfer to the state university as a Christmas gift, an undivided one-half interest in 1,911 acres of Sewickley coal located near Fairmont, Marion County, W. Va., for the benefit of the geological department of the university. Whatever of success has come to me in science and business has been due in large degree to the training I received at the university, my alma mater, and it gives me much happiness to be one of the first of her sons to recognize this obligation in a substantial manner.

The tract conveyed is, with the exception of a ten-acre tract, all in one solid block, and the Helen's Run branch of the Western Maryland Railway passes directly across the southwestern end of the same at a point from which the coal under the entire tract can be removed, with natural drainage to a shaft sunk along that railway. This Sewickley coal will have an average thickness of six feet, and hence with a liberal allowance for mining waste, the entire tract should yield, in round numbers, about 15,000,000 net tons of coal, or 7,500,000 for the university's portion. With the rapid exhaustion of the coal from the Fairmont region, it is reasonable to expect that within a period of a very few years a lease at not less than 25 cents per ton royalty can readily be obtained on this property, with agreements for increase as the years go by, so that on a graded royalty this tract should finally yield a net return to the university of approximately \$2,000,000. It is doubly pleasing to make this gift to the university during the presidency of Dr. Trotter, under whose able administration such wonderful growth and advancement have been attained.

Trusting that this donation to the university is only the forerunner of others to come from its prosperous graduates, and with best wishes, I remain,

#### EXPEDITIONS OF THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SOUTH AMERICA will be the field of four out of six scientific research expeditions to be sent out by the Field Museum of Natural History during the next five years. Two of these expeditions will gather geological specimens in the area from Brazil to Patagonia and two, one zoological and one botanical, will study the animal and plant life of Peru.

An archaeological expedition will visit the Isthmus of Panama and the State of Columbia, South America, and at the same time an ethnology expedition will go to the Malay Peninsula. All expeditions will be gone by summer and will remain in the field for periods from two to five years.

The department of geology plans to extend its expedition over a period of five years. The first of these will be headed by Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, curator of the department, and will proceed to the gem producing localities of Brazil. One of the objects of this expedition is to secure a full series of minerals associated with the diamond. Two later expeditions under Dr. Farrington's direction will visit the important gold and iron mining districts of Brazil and the silver and copper producing districts of Peru and Bolivia. The latter expedition will also take specimens from the important nitrate and vanadium deposits of Chile.

Specimens of pre-historic vertebrate life will be searched for by the second of the geological expeditions which will visit the Santa Cruz beds of Patagonia, certain areas of the Pampean formation of northern Argentine and some of the cave deposits of Brazil. It is hoped to secure specimens of the great ground sloths, the Pampas horse and other types of vertebrate life of South America. The expedition will be under the direction of Mr. E. S. Riggs, of the department of historical geology.

The zoological and botanical expeditions will work together in the interior of the Sierras of Central Peru and in the region of the sources of the Amazon. The work will take these expeditions from sea level to the highest altitudes where life is found. At times they will penetrate into virtually tropical islands, large areas of land entirely surrounded by snow capped peaks which have developed species of animal and plant life that are found in no other place. Dr. Wilfred Osgood, curator of zoology of the museum will head the expedition which expects to bring back many new specimens of animal life. The botanical expedition will be under the direction of Mr. J. Francis MacBride, assistant botanist of the museum. The region the expedition will cover is almost